

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/773,621	02/06/2004	Harvey Jay	J07-013	8355
759	7590 08/17/2006		EXAMINER	
R. Neil Sudol			JOHNSON III, HENRY M	
714 Colorado Avenue				
Bridgeport, CT 06605-1601			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
				,
				DATE MAIL ED: 08/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)					
Office Action Summary	10/773,621	JAY, HARVEY					
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit					
TI MAN NO DATE AND	Henry M. Johnson, III	3739					
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply							
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DA - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.13 after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period was realized to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	ATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION 36(a). In no event, however, may a reply be tim vill apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from cause the application to become ABANDONE	N. sely filed the mailing date of this communication. D (35 U.S.C. § 133).					
Status							
1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 Ju	Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>23 June 2006</u> .						
,	,						
·	Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is						
closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.							
Disposition of Claims							
4)⊠ Claim(s) <u>1-12,16-24 and 26-32</u> is/are pending in the application.							
4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.							
5)⊠ Claim(s) <u>24 and 27-32</u> is/are allowed.							
6) Claim(s) <u>1-12,16-23 and 26</u> is/are rejected.							
	7) Claim(s) is/are objected to.						
8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.							
Application Papers							
9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.							
10) \boxtimes The drawing(s) filed on <u>06 February 2004</u> is/are: a) \boxtimes accepted or b) \square objected to by the Examiner.							
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).							
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.							
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119							
12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of:							
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.							
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No							
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage							
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.							
oce the attached detailed office action for a list	or the defined depice not receive	.a.					
Attachment(s)							
1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date							
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 		are Patent Application (PTO-152)					

Application/Control Number: 10/773,621 Page 2

Art Unit: 3739

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, filed June 23, 2006, with respect to the rejection(s) of claims 17-27 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejections have been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground for rejection is made in view of Kelman in view of Quon et al. Quon et al. teach methods for removing hair using pulsed laser energy with fluences overlapping those of the application and pulse durations and wavelengths consistent with those disclosed by the applicant as resulting in the treatment.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-16 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The Kelman and Eckhouse disclosures are clearly related to hair treatment and a skilled artesian would be motivated to look to such related art in the development of a device for such treatment.

Claim Objections

Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: the term "measurable area of skin" is not clear in the sense that essentially all areas are measurable, no matter how small. The intent of the term with respect to limitation is not understood.

Claims 17 and 26 are object to due to the term "in part", said term not clear as to its intended impact on the claim limitation.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

Art Unit: 3739

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-7, 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,606,798 to Kelman in view of U.S. Patent 6,280,438 to Eckhouse et al. Kelman teaches a laser hair cutting apparatus within a hand-held housing, the housing including the laser, power supply (control), a vacuum source and a mirror that is positioned to direct the laser energy substantially parallel to the surface of the skin (abstract). Kelman discloses a preferred wavelength of 800 nanometers as that is absorbed by the hair, but not by surrounding tissue. An absorber is included (Fig. 2A, # 30) to prevent spurious radiation from leaving the housing (shielding). The inside of the housing is interpreted as a light application chamber. The method steps are turning on the device (generating radiation), which must be done to use the device and directing the energy in a specific direction, which is inherent in the design. Kelman does not disclose specific parameters for hair treatment. Eckhouse et al. teach an apparatus and methods for electromagnetic removal of hair (hair treatment). Devices include pulsed light sources such as flashlamps (incoherent) for providing electromagnetic treatment of the skin, including hair removal (abstract). The flashlamp is disclosed as having a wavelength range from 200 to 1300 nanometers, however the preferred range is 550 to 1300 nanometers (col. 6, lines 5-7). The pulses are controlled by varying the pulse width and pulse intervals (Col. 22, lines 30-35), thus indicating multiple pulses (bursts). A 50 ms pulse width is disclosed. The fluence delivered is disclosed as from 10 to 100 J/cm² (Col. 5, line 28). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the pulse parameters as taught by Eckhouse et al. in the invention of Kelman as Kelman provides few details on the control means, thus leading on of skill in the art to seek guidance from other hair treatment devices. Eckhouse provides such guidance including information regarding absorption of various wavelengths by skin type and hair colors.

Application/Control Number: 10/773,621

Art Unit: 3739

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,606,798 to Kelman in view of U.S. Patent 6,280,438 to Eckhouse et al. as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,306,160 to Nidetzky. Kerman and Eckhouse are discussed above, but do not teach a contact sensor. Kelman discloses a contact ring sensor that inhibits operation of a laser without proper contact (Col. 1, lines 45-50). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the contact sensor as disclosed by Nidetzky in the device of Kelman as a safety feature to reduce the possibility of stray radiation.

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,606,798 to Kelman in view of U.S. Patent 6,533,775 to Rizoiu. Kelman is discussed above, but does not teach a reservoir in the device. Rizoiu disclose a hand held device for hair treatment using electromagnetic radiation that includes a reservoir for delivery of an agent to the treatment area. The reservoir is disclosed as being filled with a composition for disrupting hair cuticles and is interpreted as a dye. A dispensing means is implied with such a reservoir. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to include a reservoir as taught by Rizoiu in the invention of Kelman to provide an agent to disrupt the hair as suggested explicitly by Rizoiu.

Claims 17-19, 22, 23 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,606,798 to Kelman in view of U.S. Patent 5,916,211 to Quon et al. Kelman is discussed above, but does not teach specific parameters of the pulses. Quon et al. disclose a method of removing (treating) hair using a laser with a fluence of from 10 to 50 J/cm² and pulse widths of 1µs to 1000 µs and wavelengths from 600 to 800 nanometers. The parameters overlap those disclosed by the applicant and would therefore induce the same results in hair. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use the pulse parameters as taught by Quon et al. in the invention of Kelman to treat hair as one of skill in the art would be drawn to

other treatment methodologies to further the bounds of the parameters of Kelman based on knowledge of other effects of radiation on hair well known in the art.

Claims 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,606,798 to Kelman in view of U.S. Patent 5,916,211 to Quon et al. as applied to claim 19 above and further in view of U.S. Patent 4,608,978 to Rohr. Kelman and Quon et al. are discussed above, but do not teach the use of incoherent light. Rohr teaches the use of incoherent light for treatment of hair. Lacking any statement of criticality, the use of a coherent or incoherent light source is considered one of design source to a skilled artesian, as both sources are well known in the art.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 24 and 27-32 are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Henry M. Johnson, III whose telephone number is (571) 272-4768. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 6:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda C. Dvorak can be reached on (571) 272-4764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Application/Control Number: 10/773,621 Page 6

Art Unit: 3739

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Henry M. Johnson, III Primary Examiner Art Unit 3739